

# CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES FINAL FLASH INCIDENT REPORT

EVENT NAME: West Lake Incident, Kern and Los Angeles Counties  
(This report may contain unconfirmed information)

DATE/TIME OF REPORT: 10/17/2015 at 1330 hours

DATE/TIME OF EVENT: 10/15/2015 at 1506 hours

LOCATION: Interstate 5 at Fort Tejon and Highway 58 at Tehachapi

IMPACT OF EVENT: MODERATE

## CRITICAL INFORMATION UPDATES:

- Caltrans reports that Interstate 5 is fully open in both directions.
- National Weather Service has issued Flash Flood Watches and Warnings in effect through this evening for areas in Kern, Los Angeles, Ventura, Fresno, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, San Bernardino, Riverside, and Inyo Counties.
- Highway 58 remains closed. Cleanup efforts continue with approximately 60-70 vehicles stuck. Estimated time of reopening is Wednesday, 10/21/15.
- Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) has arrived at the area of damaged track with loaders and dozers. Initial assessment appears to be a high volume of mud as opposed to water eroding the track.

## SITUATION

- A low-pressure weather system absorbing moisture from the south sparked severe weather, mudslides and flash flood watches and warnings across Southern California through this evening.
- Flash flooding sent water, mud and rocks rushing across Interstate 5 at Fort Tejon, stranding hundreds of vehicles and closing the major north-south thoroughfare. Some secondary roads were left impassable from mud.
- There have been no reports of serious injuries or deaths, as of this report.

## **Activations**

- Southern REOC is activated at Level 1, normal operations
- Kern County EOC is activated at Level 2
- City of Palmdale EOC is activated at Level 1.
- City of Lancaster (Los Angeles County) EOC remote activation on 10/15/15.

## **Road Conditions and Closures**

Per Cal OES Law Duty Officer:

- Two hoist helicopters in the area with one extra monitoring the area. There are no search and rescue mission pending.

## **Inland Region**

- Per the Cal OES Inland Region Duty Officer, Kern County does not have any requests for state assistance at the time of this report

## **Southern Region**

- Los Angeles County Probation Department reported that Camp Mendenhall, a probation camp, was sheltering in place due to a mudslide on Lake Hughes Road. The camp advises that they are self-sufficient and have adequate supplies of water and food.
- Camp Mendenhall reported 49 minors in the camp and 22 minors from Camp Munz. Adult staff is 14 Probation Officers and 12 other auxiliary staff.
- Camp Munz is currently closed due to plumbing upgrade. No minors on premises. Due to facility upgrade all minors were transferred to Camp Mendenhall. Currently on site 15 adults (Probation, DMH, and other auxiliary staff). They have enough food and water and will shelter in place until roads are reopened.
- The Probation Camps can evacuate from the South, however, the Camps are waiting for clearance in the north to avoid evacuating towards the south. No unmet needs.
- Los Angeles County does not have any unmet needs or requests for state assistance at the time of this report, per the Cal OES Southern Region Duty Officer.
- Los Angeles County activated their 211 Disaster Hotline for businesses and residents to report damages. The damage report capability will also be available on their website.
- There are reports of a number of homes damaged, and are currently being verified between the ICP and Public Works.
- City of Palmdale reported 5 homes with water flows, and numerous backyards flooded.
- Hughes-Elizabeth Lakes Union School District is closed. A reopen date has not been provided.
- Leona Valley Elementary was closed on 10/16/15 and plans to reopen on Monday, 10/19/15.

## **Shelters**

### **Kern County**

- A shelter has been opened west of the slide at Monroe High School, 126 S Snyder Ave, Tehachapi, CA 93561. Shelter reported zero residents and was closed at 1700 hours on 10/16/15.
- A shelter has been opened east of the slide at Mojave High School, 15732 O St, Mojave, CA 93501. At 1700 hours on 10/16/15, twelve residents remained in the shelter, which will be operational at least through this morning. It is expected shelter population will diminish to zero today and shelter operations would cease.
- Jacobson High School High School - 711 Anita Drive, Tehachapi, CA. At 1700 hours on 10/16/15, shelter headcount was four residents who may relocate to a shelter at First Southern Baptist Church. If this occurs, shelter will be closed.

### **Los Angeles County**

- The City of Palmdale is reporting that the American Red Cross has established a shelter at Marie Kerr Park, 2723 Rancho Vista Blvd (address for the Palmdale Amphitheatre), Palmdale, CA 93551. [Overnight population: 3](#)
- Lake Elizabeth Elementary School is sheltering 25 people who were trapped and had to shelter in place.
  - [There were 20 students and staff trapped at the Hughes-Elizabeth Lakes Union Elementary School, but were reunited with family.](#)

This will be the final report unless circumstances warrant an update.

POINT OF CONTACT: California State Warning Center  
916-845-8911

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